

Dear Senator Gomes, Representative Tercyak and other distinguished members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Chandra Bozelko. I am from Orange and two weeks from today will mark my second anniversary home from York Correctional Institution. I am currently a freelance opinion writer and I am here as an example of the extreme discrimination against people with criminal records and why Fair Chance legislation should be passed.

I published no fewer than 45 opinion pieces in 2015 and my work is currently under consideration for a Pulitzer Prize. Yet, despite that hard work and accomplishment, I still can't secure lasting employment because of my criminal record. I am routinely denied jobs for which I am overqualified.

Of particular importance to me is the provision in HB 5237 where the employer must identify the reason why an applicant is being rejected. As you can see from my rejection letter from Whole Foods, a company that claims to be open to hiring people with records, no business or organization ever has to say that they're holding your past against you. They simply tell you that your application will be eliminated from consideration if the content of your background check is accurate.

Of course, this is bald discrimination. But we have tolerated it for years to our own detriment. Not only are talented employees being kept from the workforce where they can serve customers and contribute to production, they are also a drain on our economy. Without employment, we don't have income or health insurance.

Instead those needs are usually met by the state through entitlement programs. I want to tell those businesses that complain about high taxes yet don't hire people with criminal records: *You're doing this to yourselves. Your discrimination backfires on you. It doesn't need to be this way if you just give some deserving people a chance.*

I won't need to tell them, though. This Committee and the General Assembly will speak for me and everyone else in Connecticut who has been justice involved if this bill is passed.

Thank you for your time,
Chandra Bozelko

Whole Foods Market
550 Bowie Street
Austin, TX 78703



BOZELKO, CHANDRA
183 WILD ROSE DRIVE
ORANGE CT 06477

8/26/2014

Enclosed is a Consumer Report or Investigative Consumer Report that was requested by Whole Foods Market in connection with your application for employment, assignment, or current employment. Also enclosed is "A Summary of Your Rights Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act."

Your application has been placed on hold. This action was taken, in whole or part, based on the information contained in your Consumer Report.

The Consumer Report was used only for employment/assignment purposes and prepared for us by a Consumer Reporting Agency. The Consumer Reporting Agency, however, did not make the decision to place your application on hold. If you wish to dispute any information in the report, please contact the Consumer Reporting Agency listed below.

Verifications, Inc.
Attention: Applicant Services
1425 Mickelson Drive
Watertown, SD 57201
Phone: +1 605.884.1325 or 1.866.280.4091

If you do not contact Verifications within seven days, your application will be eliminated from further consideration.

Sincerely,

@contact
Whole Foods Market

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